



**National  
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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*

June 15, 2007

Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 07-52

Dear FCC Chairman and Commissioners:

The National Urban League is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream. We promote economic empowerment through education, civic engagement, and civil rights. At the National Urban League, we have for nearly 100 years worked endlessly to enter African Americans into the social and economic mainstream. Nowadays, the key for this level of integration into our economy and at-large society is, in fact, access to technology. Therefore, it has become a part of our mission to ensure affordable and universal broadband service to our members.

With the Internet, we have been able to create new programs and broaden existing ones to expand our reach. On our website we have an Employment Network where employers can post listings and sort through potential employees' resumes. We offer job training programs that emphasize technological training and the development of entrepreneurial skills via the technology sector.

Though progress has been made, we cannot accept the Internet in its current state because many in this country – both urban and rural – lack



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adequate access to hi-speed services. We must do better, and it is for this reason we are pleased that the FCC is examining the market practices of the broadband industry through the current Notice of Inquiry. We urge the FCC to continue to foster a competitive environment for internet service providers. When these providers compete for new customers, consumers benefit from lower prices and newer technology. As the Internet develops to encompass more video technology, these developments will be necessary in order to continue to provide effective quality of service. African Americans have gained educational and economic opportunities through the growth of the Internet and we must ensure this trend heads in that same direction. If we, as African Americans, lack the technological tools to compete in the workforce, connect with our families, and entertain and nurture ourselves and our culture, we are not striving to achieve our collective goals and in turn, threaten to shortchange the younger generation of African American leaders we hope to leave behind.

Again, we thank the FCC for further exploring this issue and considering the interests of our membership. Making the Internet accessible and affordable to all must remain our top priority.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
National Urban League